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MATCH DAY



ERICSON CUP SOCCER

SYDNEY UNITED

V

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Round 17 - Saturday 6 January 1996

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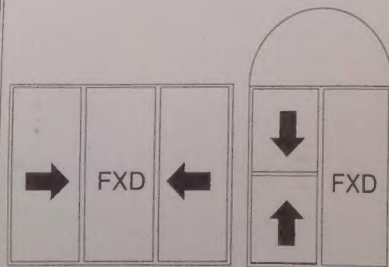
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MATCH DAY

6 January 1996
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EDITORIAL

Time for the old one, two, three

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Club Captain Tony Popovic

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IT DOESN'T SEEM that long ago that the experts were counting Sydney United down and out as a NSL force.

But in the last two seasons we have finished in third place in the league, and now start off another New Year in third spot.

In that time we have certainly proven to our knockers that we have the strength to stay the distance and along the way have seen some pretty big names stumble and fall.

A difference this year is that the first three spots on the league ladder are ALL occupied by Sydney teams - and on a purely selfish basis that is great news for the club.

It means that the interest in Sydney soccer is high and that we can be sure of bumper crowds for our home matches against Marconi and UTS Olympic - that is sure to put a smile on the treasurer's face.

Being parochial supporters the only real change we would like to see to that order is that Sydney United come out as number one - and then it doesn't really matter too much which of our neighbours fills the other spots!

And the confidence with which the team is playing shows that it isn't just a pipe dream either, Sydney United have an excellent chance of championship honours this season.

Already we have kicked the season off by becoming the first ever NSL side to win the Waratah Cup and Ivan Simic has a place reserved in the club trophy cabinet

for the first ever Ericsson Cup - and wouldn't that be a nice history-making double.

On the international front our players continue to gain recognition and only this week three of our top stars were called up for the Olyroo side.

But Ante Milicic, Ante Moric and Mark Babic have been around the club for so long that it is hard calling them youngsters, although, at least in years, that is what they still are.

Everyone at the Croatian Sports Centre wishes them the best of luck on the Road to Atlanta.

Tonight's visitors, South Melbourne, are going through something of a rebuilding process and with the added strain of moving into their new Bob Jane Stadium home it has been a hectic period for them.

Like Sydney United they are also one of the pillars of the Australian game and over the years they have produced many fine internationals for Australia.

This game is vital to both clubs for differing reasons; for United the three points are vital to continue the challenge at the top of the table while for the Blues they need to keep on winning to enforce their chances of making the Top Six.

We all remember that they did just that last season and then went on to knock us out of the Top Six play offs.

That gives this game an extra bit of edge and ensures that the footballing start to 1996 will be a real festive cracker.

The competition for places is hotter than ever

COMPETITION FOR a first team shirt at the Croatian Sports Centre this season is tougher than ever – even although the side lost a few big name players at the start.

The maturing of the club's crop of outstanding youngsters plus the signing of the likes of Genc, Patikas, Enes and Markovac has resulted in a depth of talent that has surprised many.

At the beginning of the season Sydney United were expected to be reeling from the loss of Kalac, Stanton, Hristodoulou, Petkovic and Naumovski – but it just hasn't worked that way.

Instead the blend of youth, experience and skill has turned into a vintage mix, and one which has earned the side the reputation of the best footballing team in Australia.

Along the way the competition within the club for a first team shirt has intensified.

"The competition for places is definitely there," says striker Ante Milicic, "but you need that to cover things like players being sent off, injuries and loss of form."

"There will always be players going in and out but it isn't enough to just have a big squad, it has to be quality as well."

"That is exactly what Sydney United has got."

Up front Milicic has seen a few permutations as well, with him being linked in a dual strike role



Sean Babic: one of the outstanding crop of Sydney United youngsters – but unable to command a regular first team starting place

variously with Jimmy Patikas, David Zdrilic, Sean Babic and Marie Lamond.

Currently the favoured pairing is Milicic and Patikas but that will be broken up after tonight's match against South Melbourne, at least temporarily while Milicic trades shirts for the green and gold of the Olyroos for the next three weeks.

"Hopefully everyone will be able to stay fit," he says, "but there is still a lot of soccer left in this season."

"We will need to have that depth of quality to have a serious tilt at the championship."

"But the spirit in the dressing room is very good, all of the players are very confident."

"We really believe that this is the year in which we can give the Ericsson Cup a big shake."

"The fans can see that we are trying to play good, entertaining football for them and we are winning so they will keep on coming."

And despite playing some of the best football of his career the highly skilled ball player has struggled to hit the back of the net as often as he likes.

"No, that's true," he admits.

"But it is just a confidence thing and hopefully once I start getting a couple then the rest will follow."



Robert Enes: one of the good value buys this season fighting for a regular place as the competition for a first team shirt heats up

"I'm sure that they will come sooner or later."

Now, Milicic will take time out to adjust to the demands of the

Australian Olympic team before rejoining his mates for another bout of Ericsson Cup action; a bout which he is

confident will see Sydney United stay up amongst the serious challengers in the league.

Everyone is talking about Jimmy – well, nearly

COACH Branko Culina is reserved when asked about Jimmy Patikas, almost to the point of being defensive.

"Yes, he has played quite well," says Branko, "but I expect a lot more from him once he gets that level of match fitness and learns our style of play."

You could almost be forgiven for suspecting that Branko deliberately wants

to play down talk on the man that everyone in Australian soccer is raving about.

And if you didn't know better you could also be forgiven for thinking that Patikas' arrival was perfectly timed for that time of the year when the soccer media just about closes down.

But the appetite has already been whetted and now everyone is talking about Jimmy.

Even Branko Culina turns a quick smile when his name is brought up – as if the coach does know something more than we do.

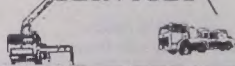
But one secret can't be kept – Jimmy Patikas is back in a BIG way.

Mike Komadina

M & F

18 Gallagher Street, Mount Druitt, NSW 2771
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CONCRETE PUMPING SERVICES



United stars for Olyroos

SYDNEY UNITED has continued its success rate at international level with the announcement of three of its star players being named in the Australian Olympic squad for this month's Oceania qualification series in Adelaide.

"Again it is recognition of the outstanding youth policy of this club," says president Ivan Simic.

"We have a deliberate aim to foster the best young players in the country and the fact that we share with Melbourne Knights the honour of having the most individual club players selected is just reward."

19-year-old defender Paul Bilokapic was said to be unlucky to miss out by national coach Eddie Thomson, which could

have seen United with four representatives.

He said that the tall defender had impressed him and it was a difficult decision to leave out such a talent.

But Thomson was spoiled for choice in this squad with the return of players like Craig Moore (Glasgow Rangers) and Kevin Muscat (from England), giving him a depth in defence that he might not otherwise have expected.

"It is always hard for any player to be left out of a team," adds United coach Branko Culina.

"But that is part and parcel of the game and when you get another chance you just have to make the most of it."

"The three players selected will all figure prominently in the team and I expect each of them to have a good tournament."

Both Moric and Babic played in the recent challenge match against Japan while Milicic sat that one out on the bench.

Since then Milicic has been in outstanding club form seeing him come into the squad at the expense of Melbourne Knights' Joe Bacak.

Both Moric and Babic have had injury clouds over them in recent games but both players are expected to be at full fitness for the start of the tournament against Vanuatu.

Australia's group consists of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Zealand and should they, as expected, qualify then they will face the runner-up of the CONCACAF section for the right to play in the Atlanta Olympics.

All three players fly into camp in Adelaide on Monday.

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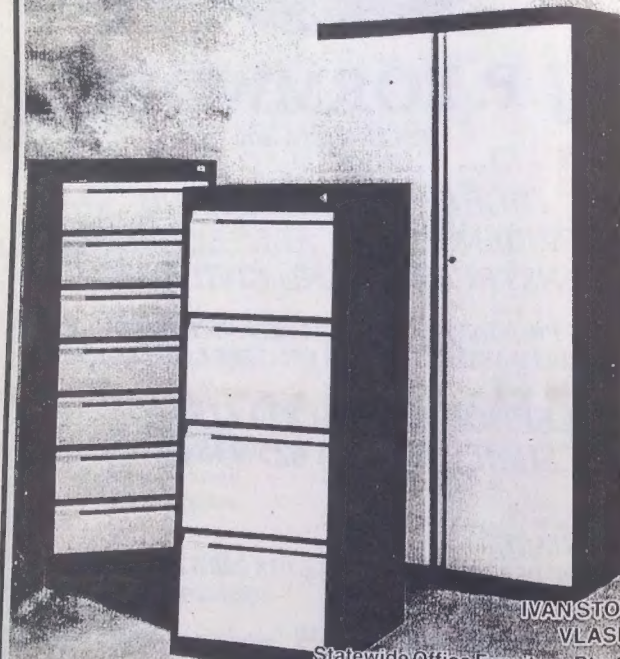
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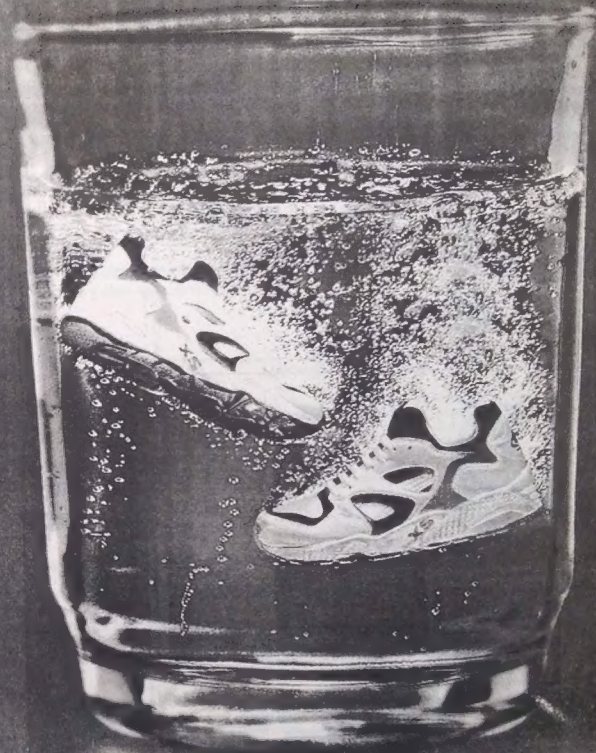
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1995/96 SYDNEY UNITED STATISTICS

Best Crowd:

8,196 v Marconi-Fairfield (Away - Round 10)

Best Home Crowd:

5,211 v Melbourne Knights (Round 7)

Total Home Crowds:

29,736 (7 games)

Average Home Crowd:

4,248

Top Ericsson Cup Crowd 1995/96:

11,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide Round 9

Player Appearances:

13 Mark Babic
12 Sean Babic
14 Paul Blokapic
15 Robert Enes
09 Aytak Genc
01 Chad Gibson
01 Mirko Jurij
18 Velimir Kupresak
08 Manis Lamond
11 Robert Markovack
16 Ante Milicic
13 Ante Moric
04 Jimmy Patikas
16 John Perosh
10 Richard Pleša
14 Tony Popovic
11 Mark Rudan
04 Robert Trajkovski
07 Dominic Usalj
01 Joe Vrkic
16 David Zdrlic

Goals Scored:

4 David Zdrlic
2 Sean Babic
2 Manis Lamond
3 Robert Markovack
2 Ante Milicic
4 Tony Popovic
1 Paul Blokapic
1 Aytak Genc
1 Marko Rudan

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

13 Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
9 Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
8 Kris TRALIANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
8 Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
7 Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
7 Ivan KELIC (South Melbourne)
6 Pablo CARDOZO (West Adelaide)
6 Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)
6 Kimon TALIADEOROS (UTS Olympic)
6 Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
5 Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
5 Mike SMITH (Marconi-Fairfield)
5 Paul TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne)
4 Lachlan ARMSTRONG (Canberra Cosmos)
4 Franck AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
4 Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
4 Brian BOTHWELL (Morwell Falcons)
4 Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
4 Bradley HASSEL (Adelaide City)
4 Tony POPOVIC (Sydney United)
4 Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
4 Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)
4 David ZDRILIC (Sydney United)
3 Matthew BINGLEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
3 Sean CRAWNEY (Brisbane Strikers)
3 Bill DAMIANOS (South Melbourne)
3 Nathan DAY (West Adelaide)
3 Brad MALONEY (Marconi-Fairfield)
3 Robbie MARKOVAC (Sydney United)
3 Andrew MARTIN (Melbourne Knights)
3 Joe MULLEN (Adelaide City)
3 Michael MUSITANO (Canberra Cosmos)
3 Marko PERINOVIC (Canberra Cosmos)
3 Steve PANOFULOS (South Melbourne)
3 Tom PONDELJAK (Melbourne Knights)
3 Clayton ZANE (Newcastle Breakers)
3 Chris ZORICH (Brisbane Strikers)
2 Ross ALOISI (West Adelaide)
2 Walter ARDONE (UTS Olympic)
2 Elias AUGERINOS (UTS Olympic)
2 Shaun BABIC (Sydney United)
2 Mark BATTISTIN (Brisbane Strikers)
2 Damian BROWN (Newcastle Breakers)
2 Vaughan COVENEY (South Melbourne)
2 Eric HRISTODOULOU (Marconi-Fairfield)
2 Manis LAMOND (Sydney United)
2 Tony LEMEZINA (Canberra Cosmos)
2 David LOWE (Newcastle Breakers)
2 Ante MILICIC (Sydney United)
2 Lupcho NAUMOVSKI (Wollongong City)
2 Angelo PETRATOS (Wollongong Wolves)
2 Michael REDA (Morwell Falcons)
2 Robbie SLAGER (West Adelaide)
2 Alex TOBIN (Adelaide City)
1 Daniel ALSOPP (South Melbourne)
1 Bradley ARMOUR (Adelaide City)
1 Joe BACAK (UTS Olympic)
1 Scott BALLIE (UTS Olympic)
1 Paul BLOKAPIC (Sydney United)
1 Con BLATISIS (South Melbourne)
1 Andrew BRAYSHAW (Brisbane Strikers)
1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (Melbourne Knights)
1 Claudio CANOSA (Morwell Falcons)
1 Adam CIANTAR (UTS Olympic)



facts&figures facts&figures facts&figures facts&figures facts&figures

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 14

Friday 22nd December

Wollongong City 1 (Petratos 57)
Canberra Cosmos 3 (o.g. 68, Lamezina 80, A Popovich 88)
Venue: Brandon Park
Att: 3,2001 Referee: E Lennie

Saturday 23rd December

Brisbane Strikers 4 (Farina 20, 80, 86, Hunter 89)
Sydney United 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Att: 2,282 Referee: M Shield

Marconi-Fairfield 0
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Att: 4,231 Referee: E Brazzale

UTS Olympic 2 (Baillie 60, Taliadoros 71)
Morwell Falcons 2 (Sevin 1, Villani 17)
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Att: 4,091 Referee: J Fraser

West Adelaide 2 (Tskenis 31, Cardozo 62)
Newcastle Breakers 1 (o.g. 45)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Att: 3,307 Referee: J Papanicolas

South Melbourne 2 (Trimboli 33, Coveny 49)
Adelaide City 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Att: 7,394 Referee: C Naumcevski

ROUND 15

Tuesday 26th December

Newcastle Breakers 0
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Att: 3,150 Referee: J Fraser

Canberra Cosmos 3 (Waide 52, 62 pen)
South Melbourne 1 (Blatts 86)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Att: 3,128 Referee: C Diomisi

Sydney United 3 (Popovic 50, 80 pen, Markovic 58)
Wollongong City 0
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Att: 3,950 Referee: B Hugo

Morwell Falcons 1 (Spink 49)
Marconi-Fairfield 4 (Smith 15, 69, Harper 55, Bingley 60)
Venue: Falcons Stadium
Att: 3,884 Referee: G Connolly

Adelaide City 0
UTS Olympic 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Att: 5,231 Referee: E Brazzale

Melbourne Knights 2 (Spiteri 50, T Pondejak 83)
West Adelaide 0
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Att: 3,890 Referee: E Lennie

ROUND 16

Friday 29 December

Newcastle Breakers 1 (James 89)
Sydney United 1 (Zdrilic 8)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Att: 4,038 Referee: D Crawford

South Melbourne 6 (Trimboli 16, Damiano 19, Kelic 44, 59, 68, 88 pen)
Wollongong City 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Att: 6,338 Referee: J Papanicolas

Saturday 30 December

Brisbane Strikers 0
Melbourne Knights 0
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Att: 7,851 Referee: G Connolly

Marconi-Fairfield 4 (o.g. 27, Maloney 44, Hristodoulou 55, Harper 77)
Adelaide City 2 (Hassell 33, Mori 58)
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Att: 4,416 Referee: J Fraser

UTS Olympic 2 (Slater 82, Trajanovski 89)
Canberra Cosmos 0
Venue: Leichhardt Oval
Att: 4,753 Referee: B Hugo

West Adelaide 2 (Day 44, Tskenis 82)
Morwell Falcons 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Att: 3,060 Referee: W Dade

LES SCHEINFLUG CUP

ROUND 12

UTS Olympic 2 Newcastle Breakers 0

ROUND 14

St George 1 Newcastle Breakers 4
Parramatta Eagles 0 NSW ITC 1
Wollongong City 2 ACT Academy 3
UTS Olympic 1 Blacktown City 2
Queensland Academy v Sydney United PP

ROUND 15

NSW ITC 1 UTS Olympic 0
ACT Academy 1 Parramatta Eagles 0
Sydney United 3 Wollongong City 2
Newcastle Breakers 0 Queensland Academy 3
Blacktown City 1 Marconi-Fairfield 6

GRAHAM ARNOLD CUP

ROUND 5

Leichhardt Tigers 3 Rockdale Suns 2
Sydney United v Central Coast PP
Adamstown Rosebud 1 Bonnyrigg Eagles 2
MacArthur Rams 1 Bankstown Lions 2
UTS Olympic 0 Canterbury 1
Warringah Dolphins 2 Sutherland Sharks 1

ERICSSON CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	16	9	5	2	29	17	32
Marconi-Fairfield	16	6	4	3	27	16	31
Sydney United	16	7	6	3	20	14	27
Brisbane Strikers	16	8	2	6	24	19	26
Melbourne Knights	16	7	4	5	16	12	25
Adelaide City	16	6	4	6	26	18	22
West Adelaide	16	6	4	6	21	21	22
Morwell Falcons	16	6	3	7	21	28	21
Canberra Cosmos	16	5	5	6	25	24	20
South Melbourne	16	6	2	8	25	26	20
Newcastle Breakers	16	2	4	10	14	32	10
Wollongong City	16	3	1	12	12	33	10

3 points for a win, 1 for a draw, 0 for a loss

LES SCHEINFLUG CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi-Fairfield	14	12	1	1	57	10	37
Sydney United	15	11	0	4	32	17	33
ACT Academy	16	8	2	6	32	32	26
AIS	12	7	2	3	36	20	23
UTS Olympic	16	7	2	7	36	26	23
Qld Academy	13	7	1	5	37	20	22
Wollongong City	15	7	1	7	31	34	22
Parramatta Eagles	14	5	4	5	27	25	19
Blacktown City	16	5	4	7	27	38	19
Newcastle Breakers	15	4	2	9	19	31	14
St George	13	2	1	10	12	46	7
NSW ITC	15	2	0	13	8	55	6

3 points win, 1 point for a draw, 0 for a loss

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All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.
Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.
The setting alight of, or the lighting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.
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KICK OFF 7.00pm

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SYDNEY UNITED

RED SHIRTS, WHITE SHORTS, BLUE SOCKS

SYDNEY UNITED SQUAD

1 John Perosh
2 Robert Trajkovski
3 Vojimir Kupresak
4 Tony Popovic (C)
5 Mark Babic
6 Robert Enes
7 Aylek Genc
8 Ante Moric
9 Robbie Markovac
10 Ante Milicic
11 Domenic Usalj
12 Marko Rudan
13 Jimmy Patikas
14 David Zdrilic
15 Sean Babic
16 Maris Lamond
17 Paul Bilokapic
18 Richard Plesas
19 Joe Vrkic
20 Andrew Crews
21 James Aschner
22 Mirko Jurij
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

LIKELY LINE-UP

PEROSH

POPOVIC

ZDRILIC

KUPRESAK

M BABIC

BILOKAPIC

ENES

GENC

MORIC

PATIKAS

MILICIC

COACH: Branko Culina

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

v Wollongong City (26.12.95) WON 3-0
v Canberra Cosmos (16.12.95) WON 3-0
v Morwell Falcons (25.11.95) LOST 0-2
v Melbourne Knights (12.11.95) WON 2-0
v Brisbane Strikers (1.11.95) WON 1-0
v Newcastle Breakers (29.10.95) LOST 1-2

LAST SEASON:

Sydney United 2 South Melbourne 1
Sydney United also won the away match but lost an explosive
Top Six clash at neutral Marconi Stadium.

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BLATIS

VALKANIS

KUZMANOVIC

DURIC

NIKOLIC

COVENEY

PETERSEN

DAMIANOS

TRIMBOLI

KELIC

COACH: Frank Arok

SOUTH SQUAD

Dean Anastasiadis 1
Con Blatsis 2
Steve Mangos 3
Aleks Kuzmanovic 4
Mike Valkanis 5
Con Anthopoulos 6
Steve Panopoulos 7
Vaughan Coveney 8
Paul Trimboli (c) 9
Ivan Kelic 10
Agim Sherifovski 11
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George Tsianakas 26
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LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95) LOST 1-3
v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1

CURRENT FORM: South Melbourne haven't won an away match since October while United have the best home record in the league over the last three seasons. All things point to a United home victory and if I was a betting man I'd have a wee bit of a punt. Prediction: United 2-0.

United's League Record

First Phase

H v West Adelaide 8.10.95 DREW 0-0
A v Canberra Cosmos 14.10.95 DREW 0-0
A v Wollongong City 20.10.95 WON 1-0
H v Newcastle Breakers 29.10.95 LOST 1-2
H v Brisbane Strikers 1.11.95 WON 1-0
A v South Melbourne 5.10.95 WON 2-0
H v Melbourne Knights 12.11.95 WON 2-0
A v Sydney Olympic 19.11.95 DREW 2-2
H v Morwell Falcons 26.11.95 LOST 0-2
A v Marconi-Fairfield 2.12.95 DREW 1-1
A v Adelaide City 6.12.95 DREW 2-2

Second Phase

A v West Adelaide 10.12.95 WON 1-0
H v Canberra Cosmos 17.12.95 WON 3-0
A v Brisbane Strikers 23.12.95 LOST 0-4
H v Wollongong City 26.12.95 WON 3-0
A v Newcastle Breakers 29.12.95 DREW 1-1
H v South Melbourne 7.1.96
A v Melbourne Knights 4.2.96
H v UTS Olympic 12.2.96
A v Morwell Falcons 17.2.96
A v Marconi-Fairfield 24.2.96
H v Adelaide City 3.3.96

Third Phase

H v West Adelaide 10.3.96
A v Canberra Cosmos 13.3.96
H v Brisbane Strikers 17.3.96
A v Wollongong City 22.3.96
H v Newcastle Breakers 20.3.96
A v South Melbourne 31.3.96
H v Melbourne Knights 4.4.96
A v UTS Olympic 8.4.96
H v Morwell Falcons 14.4.96
H v Marconi-Fairfield 21.4.96
A v Adelaide City 28.4.96

Johnnie Walker Cup

Round 1 v Marconi-Fairfield
First Leg: Marconi Stadium Sunday 14 January
Second Leg: Croatian Sports Centre Sat 20 January
Round 2: Tuesday 23 January
Semi Finals: Thursday 25 January
Final: Saturday 27 January

Brilliant one day, ordinary the next - but he still gets an ovation form his army of fans

NO-ONE HAS ever doubted the skills of Sydney United's Manis Lamond. He has his army of fans in every media box, every dressing room and on every terrace in Australia. But equally so no-one has ever doubted his unpredictability.

"Look," said one of his team-mates, "that's what the kind of player that Manis is.

"If he could score every time he gets in front of goal because he did the predictable then he probably would have been marked out of the game before he even got a chance.

"It is simply because no-one has a clue what he is going to do - and I suspect that Manis doesn't know half of the time either - that he gets the space to do some of those amazing things.

"But sometimes he scores, others he blazes it over the bar or spins it around the post from just a few yards out. That is Manis."

At times he can also turn the ball on a sixpence and it is that, plus his ability to weave past defenders, that has endeared him to the home terrace fans.

Even when Manis Lamond comes off the bench he gets a standing ovation from the crowd.

Branko Culina has also been quick to realise the part that Lamond has been playing saying: "Manis is part of our team. Whether he is coming off the bench or starting a game then he has his part to play - and he does it too.

"You have to realise that he can be brilliant one day and then very ordinary the next, that is his nature."

Cover Action

Sydney United grabbed a valuable 2-0 win against South Melbourne in the first phase of the Ericsson Cup - and Velimir Kupresak and Mark Babic will be just as keen to bottle up the Blues' strikers tonight.



Paul Biokapic refuses to give in against Canberra's Paul Dee. It was that instinct of going out to destroy the opposition that the talented youngster wants to see in United every week.

Bring out the killer instinct says Paul

THE NAME of Paul Biokapic is sure to be one of those which is destined to regularly hit the head lines in future seasons but for now the big youngster is content to cement his immediate future at United - in any position.

This season has seen him in both defensive and midfield roles and he makes no secret of his preference for the latter role he has filled for the club.

"I started off as a youngster in the midfield," he says, "and it is a position that I really enjoy. Obviously I've still got a lot to learn at this level but I have enjoyed it a lot. I've been pleased at my performance and I just tend to go by that - playing it week by week."

The option that Biokapic gives to the side is that of a ball winner, a balance to the slicker ball skills of players like Robbie

Enes, Aylet Genc and Ante Moric.

"If we just play with a ball playing midfield then we will get killed," says Biokapic. "My job, when I play in the middle, is to get in there and get stuck in and win the ball."

"At times Sydney United play the best football in Australia but we still have to learn to go out and punish sides when we get the chance."

"We did it against Canberra and we have to

do that more often, we have to learn to destroy them when we are on top.

"It is also good to see the crowd get behind the team the way that they do.

"We have got some great individual players at the club like Jimmy Patikas and Manis Lamond but Sydney United is more than that, we are a kind of community club."

Time for a Johnnie

THE CLASH between west Sydney rivals United and Marconi is set to establish the attendance record in this year's Johnnie Walker Cup.

Derbies between the two clubs are always fiercely contested affairs and just because this is a cup clash officials expect it to be no less of an event.

"We always welcome Marconi to the Croatian Sports Centre," says club president Ivan Simic.

"Both teams are renowned for their brands of football and the fans know that."

"So it all adds up to another two bumper nights of summer soccer."

"But maybe the best thing is the atmosphere that is always present when we meet."

"The biggest crowd we have played in front of so far this season has been a derby match with Marconi and both clubs would be hoping to see a similar repeat for the Johnnie Walker Cup."

FOR THE RECORD
Last season United crashed out in the first round to Brisbane Strikers - despite winning the return leg 2-1 they bowed out on a 3-2 aggregate.

ROUND 1 FIRST LEG
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Sunday 14th January

ROUND 1 SECOND LEG
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Saturday 20th January



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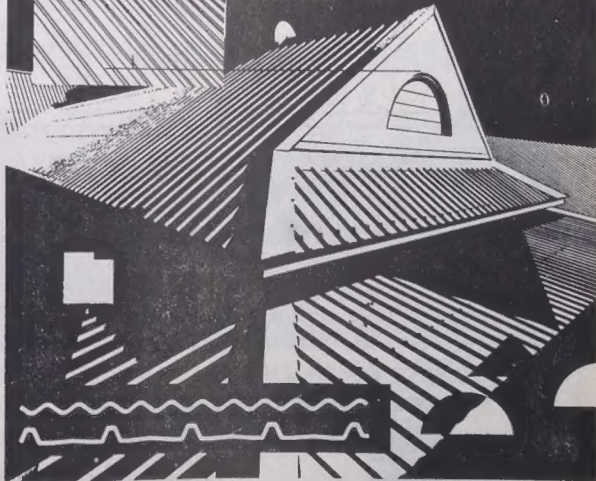
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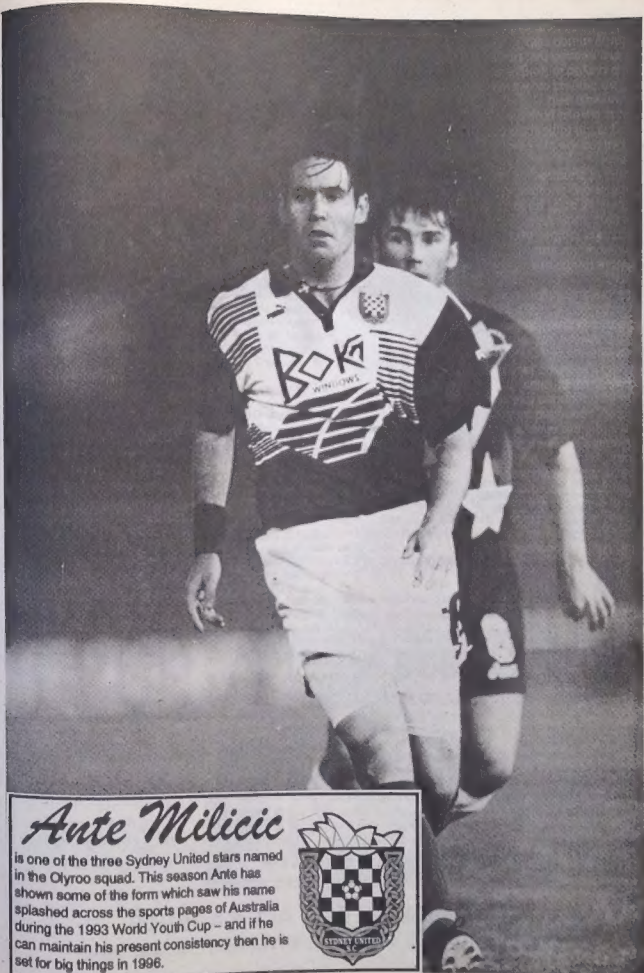


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Ante Milicic

is one of the three Sydney United stars named in the Olyroo squad. This season Ante has shown some of the form which saw his name splashed across the sports pages of Australia during the 1993 World Youth Cup - and if he can maintain his present consistency then he is set for big things in 1996.



MATCH DETAILS

ROUND 16: v Newcastle Breakers (away) 29.12.95

DREW 1-1
SCORER: Zdrilic
LEAGUE POSITION: 3rd
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Genc, Markovac, Milicic, Patikas (S Babic 75), Zdrilic, Lamond (Rudan 45), Gibson
Referee: D Crawford
Yellow Cards: Patikas
Attendance: 4,038

ROUND 15: v Wollongong City (home) 26.12.95

WIN 3-0
SCORERS: Popovic 2, Markovac
LEAGUE POSITION: 3rd
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes (Lamond 31), Genc (Plesas 82), Markovac, Milicic, Patikas, Zdrilic, Bilokapic (S Babic 45)
Referee: B Hugo
Yellow Cards: M Babic, Markovac, Lamond
Attendance: 3,950

ROUND 14: v Brisbane Strikers (away) 23.12.95

LOST 0-4
LEAGUE POSITION: 4th
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes, Markovac, Milicic, Patikas (S Babic 80), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Plesas (Lamond 69)
Referee: M Shield
Attendance: 2,282

ROUND 13: v Canberra Cosmos (home) 16.12.95

WIN 3-0
SCORERS: Popovic 2, Lamond
LEAGUE POSITION: 3rd
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, Enes (Rudan

73), Moric, Milicic, Patikas (Lamond 57), Zdrilic, Genc (Markovac 45), Bilokapic, Plesas
Referee: S Micallef
Yellow Cards: Moric, Plesas
Red Card: Moric
Attendance: 4,984

ROUND 12: v West Adelaide (away) 10.12.95

WIN 1-0
SCORER: Markovac
LEAGUE POSITION: 3rd
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, Enes (Rudan 81), Genc, Moric, Milicic, Lamond (Markovac 82), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Plesas
Referee: W Dade
Yellow Cards: Nil
Attendance: 3,904

ROUND 11: v Adelaide City (away) 6.12.95

DREW 2-2
SCORERS: Genc, Lamond
LEAGUE POSITION: 5th
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, Enes (Lamond 45), Genc, Moric (Vikic 89), Milicic, Rudan, Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Plesas
Referee: E Lennie
Yellow Cards: Kupresak, Moric, Rudan, Bilokapic
Attendance: 4,248

ROUND 10: v Marconi-Fairfield (away) 2.12.95

DREW 1-1
SCORER: Bilokapic
LEAGUE POSITION: 6th
Sydney United: Perosh, M Babic (Rudan 63), Kupresak, Popovic, Zdrilic, Genc, Enes, Bilokapic, Moric, Lamond (Plesas 80), Milicic

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Referee: C Diomisi
Yellow Cards: Genc, Popovic
Attendance: 8,196

ROUND 9: v Morwell Falcons (home) 25.11.95

LOST 0-2
LEAGUE POSITION: 5th
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes, Genc, Moric (Juric 60), Milicic, Zdrilic, S Babic (Lamond 60), Plesas (Rudan 85)
Referee: J Papanicolas
Attendance: 4,321

ROUND 8: v UTS Olympic (away) 19.11.95

DRAW 2-2
SCORERS: Ante Milicic (2)
LEAGUE POSITION: 4th
Sydney United: Perosh, Plesas, Kupresak, M Babic, Popovic, Bilokapic, Enes, Moric, Genc, Zdrilic (Markovac 78), Milicic (S Babic 84)
Referee: B Hugo
Yellow Cards: Genc, Enes, Bilokapic
Attendance: 7,133

ROUND 7: v Melbourne Knights (home) 12.11.95

WIN 2-0
SCORERS: Zdrilic, S Babic
LEAGUE POSITION: 2nd
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes (Rudan 89), Genc (Usalj 85), Moric, Milicic, Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Plesas (S Babic 50)
Referee: C Diomisi
Attendance: 5,211

ROUND 6: v South Melbourne (away) 5.11.95

WIN 2-0
SCORERS: Robbie Markovac, David Zdrilic
LEAGUE POSITION: 4th
Sydney United: Perosh, Kupresak, Popovic, M Babic, Enes (Rudan 89), Moric, Markovac, Milicic, Zdrilic, Bilokapic (Usalj 62), Plesas (S Babic 68)
Referee: E Brazzale
Yellow Cards: Plesas
Attendance: 3,295

ROUND 3: v Brisbane Strikers (home) 1.11.95 - split round

WIN 1-0
SCORER: David Zdrilic
LEAGUE POSITION: 4th
Sydney United: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Popovich, M Babic, Enes, Moric, Milicic (Usalj 89), Zdrilic, S Babic (Markovac 70), Bilokapic
Referee: B Hugo
Yellow Cards: Bilokapic, S Babic, Milicic
Attendance: 2,394

ROUND 5: v Newcastle Breakers (home) 29.10.95

LOST 1-2
SCORERS: Marko Rudan
LEAGUE POSITION: 8th
Sydney United: Perosh, Rudan, Kupresak, M Babic, Zdrilic (Usalj 69), Milicic
Referee: D Crawford
Yellow Cards: M Babic, S Babic
Attendance: 3,625

ROUND 4: v Wollongong City Wolves (away) 20.10.95

WIN 1-0



SCORER: S Babic
LEAGUE POSITION: 8th
Sydney United: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Popovic (c), M Babic, Enes, Moric, Milicic, Rudan (S Babic 45), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Coach: Branko Culina
Referee: B Hugo
Yellow Cards: Popovic, Trajkovski
Attendance: 2,506

ROUND 2: v Canberra Cosmos (away) 14.10.95

DRAW 0-0
LEAGUE POSITION: 8th
Sydney United: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, M Babic (c), Enes, Moric (Markovac 13), Milicic, Usalj, Rudan (S Babic 70), Zdrilic, Bilokapic, Coach: Branko Culina
Referee: C Diomisi
Yellow Card: Bilokapic
Attendance: 5,494

ROUND 1: v West Adelaide (home) 8.10.95

DRAW 0-0
LEAGUE POSITION: 7th
Sydney United: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Rudan, M Babic (c), Bilokapic, Usalj, Enes (Zdrilic 63), Moric, Milicic, S Babic (Markovac 86), Coach: Branko Culina
Referee: M Shields
Yellow Cards: Rudan, Kupresak, S Babic, Zdrilic
Attendance: 4,160

WARATAH CUP FINAL: v Canterbury (Marconi Stadium)

1.10.95
WIN 2-1
SCORER: S Babic, Moric
Sydney United: Perosh, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Bilokapic, M Babic (c), Rudan, Usalj, Moric, S Babic, Milicic, Markovac (Zdrilic)
Attendance: 2,830

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